

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 154600

ROME FOR FODAG, PARIS FOR NESCO, MONTREAL FOR ICAO,

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UN JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND BOARD MEETING

REF: STATE 145990 (NOTAL)
VIENNA FOR UNIDO AND USIAEA, LONDON FOR SHIPPING ATTACE
1. DURING THE UN JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD MEETING,
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN NAIROBI IN MID-JULY, WE WOULD
ANTICIPATE THAT QUESTIONS WILL ARISE AS TO THE U.S.
POSITION ON UN PENSION MATTERS. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE,
THE FOLLOWING WILL BE HELPFUL.
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2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NOBLEMAIRE PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO
ALL CLASSES OF UN REMUNERATION INCLUDING UN PENSIONS. FOR
THIS REASON WE DISAGREE WITH THE UN MAKING LUMP SUM
PENSION PAYMENTS SINCE THIS IS NOT THE PRACTICE OF THE U.S.
CIVIL SERVICE. TO PROPERLY COMPLY WITH THE UNGA ENDORSED
NOBLEMAIRE PRINCIPLE THE UNJSPB SHOULD RECOMMEND WITH-

DRAWAL OF THE PRIVILEGE OF LUMP SUM PENSION PAYMENTS OR AT LEAST LIMIT SUCH PAYMENTS TO THE AMOUNT THE EMPLOYEE HAS ACTUALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNJSPF. IF NEITHER OF THE TWO COURSES OF ACTION IS POSSIBLE THEN STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO COMPUTE LUMP SUM PENSION PAYMENTS ON THE BASIS OF THE EMPLOYEES NET FINAL AVERAGE REMUNERATION RATHER THAN ON THE GROSS FINAL AVERAGE REMUNERATION AS IS NOW THE CASE.

THE UN TREATS LUMP SUM PENSION PAYMENTS AS TERMINATION PAYMENTS IN THE SAME CLASS AS LUMP SUM LEAVE AND REPATRIATION PAYMENTS, EXEMPT FROM NATIONAL TAXATION. SINCE LUMP SUM LEAVE AND REPATRIATION PAYMENTS ARE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF NET SALARY THEN IT WOULD SEEM LOGICALLY TO FOLLOW THAT LUMP SUM PENSION PAYMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE COMPUTED ON NET SALARY.

3. UNDER UNJSPF RULES A SURVIVING SPOUSE NORMALLY RECEIVES ONE HALF THE DECEASED ANNUITANT'S BENEFIT. NO CHARGE IS LEVIED AGAINST THE ANNUITANT'S BENEFIT WHILE HE IS LIVING TO PAY FOR THIS "INSURANCE" AS IS REQUIRED OF U.S. CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITANTS. HERE AGAIN THE UNJSPB SHOULD RECOMMEND ACTION TO BRING UNJSPF PRACTICE INTO LINE WITH THAT OF THE U.S. CIVIL SERVICE.

4. IN THE EVENT THAT PROPOSALS FOR REVISING THE PRESENT SYSTEM FOR ADJUSTING ANNUITIES TO COVER INCREASES IN
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COST OF LIVING OR PAYING ANNUITIES ABROAD SHOULD COME UP WE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGES WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF THE UNFSPF.

CHRISTOPHER

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